URUGUAY

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URUGUAY IN BRIEF

Area—72,153 square miles **Population**—2,340,000[1]

Capital—Montevideo; **Population**—850,000 **Language**—Spanish

Principal Exports—Wool, meats and extracts, grain and agricultural products, hides and skins.

Principal Imports—Raw materials, dry goods and general merchandise, automotive vehicles, foodstuffs, construction material, fuels and lubricants.

Climate—Temperate. There are slight variations throughout the year. June, with an average temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit, is the coolest month. January, which has an average of 74 degrees, is the warmest. Uruguay has a yearly rainfall of about 39 inches.

Chief Physical Characteristics—Almost the entire country is made up of broad, hilly plains. In the north, however, these are broken up by hills or low mountains. Uruguay is bounded by water on three of its four sides: on the east, by the Atlantic, on the west, by the Uruguay River and on the south by the River Plate.

How to Reach—Uruguay is easily reached. Montevideo, its capital and chief port, is located on the eastern shore of the River Plate, close to the point where its waters merge with those of the Atlantic Ocean. Steamers ply frequently and regularly between Montevideo and ports in other Latin American countries, the United States and Europe. A railroad runs between Montevideo and Rio de Janeiro.

The Pan American World Airways System links Montevideo with the rest of the Americas. There are also air connections with European countries.

Independence Day—August 25, 1825. **National Hero**—José Gervasio Artigas

National Flag—The flag consists of four blue horizontal stripes alternating with five white ones, with a golden sun in a white square in the upper corner next to the flagstaff.

Coat of Arms—The arms of Uruguay consist of an oval shield divided into four quarters. The upper left and lower right have fields of blue, while the upper right and lower left are silver. Each quarter has a symbolic design: Upper left, a pair of scales symbolizing equality and justice; upper right, a mountain, symbolizing strength; lower left, a horse running free, representing liberty; and lower right, an ox, denoting plenty. Two olive branches wreath the shield on either side. The crest which surmounts the shield is a rising sun.

National Flower—The ceibo. This is a scarlet flower of a native tree which grows 25 feet high.

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[1] Official estimate, January 1, 1948.

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URUGUAY

La República Oriental del Uruguay is the official name of a country which has been in the vanguard of every progressive movement in Latin America.

Situated on South America's southeastern coast, between the broad estuary of the Río de la Plata (River Plate) and Brazil's southernmost region, Uruguay is shaped roughly like a square. On its western side, it is separated by the Uruguay River from the Argentine provinces of Entre Ríos and Corrientes. To the north is Brazil. Its eastern shores are washed by the Atlantic Ocean. To the south is the estuary of the Río de la Plata.

Cover Illustration: Avenida Agraciada, one of Montevideo's main thoroughfares. Piriápolis, *above*, is one of the many excellent resorts along the Río de la Plata.

With its 72,153 square miles, Uruguay is about the size of North Dakota (or, more than the combined areas of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Switzerland).

Uruguay is blessed with a benign climate the year round. This is largely due to the fact that of its 1,147 miles of boundaries, 667 miles, or over half, consist of water, lakes, rivers or seacoasts. Uruguay's seasons are the reverse of those found in the United States, in view of her location in the South Temperate zone. Thus the coolest month is June, with an average temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The warmest is January, when the average is a not-too-hot 74 degrees Fahrenheit, seldom nearing 100. The wet season occurs in winter, the dry

in spring. There is enough rainfall. Yet each year has about 290 days when sunshine may be enjoyed.

There is a mean annual rainfall of 40 inches. It is evenly distributed throughout the season.

At no point is Uruguay higher than 2,000 feet above sea level. Most of her land is low and rolling. It slopes toward the west and southwest, while the northern part is characterized by low wooded mountains and hills.

Other than the Río de la Plata, the Uruguay and the Negro (the last-named flows southwestward into the Uruguay), there are rivers which, though serving as trade arteries in a more limited way, derive their importance from the fact that they supply abundant water to the rich plains.

Historical Resumé

1516—First visit by Spaniards, led by Juan Díaz de Solís. Killed by warlike Charrúa Indians.

1680—First permanent European settlement (by Portuguese), at Colonia.

1726—The government at Buenos Aires authorized the founding of a fortified city at Montevideo, to prevent further Portuguese penetration from Brazil.

1776—The country was made part of the newly-established Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata. It became known as the *Banda Oriental*, because of its location east of the Uruguay River.

1777—The land was formally ceded to Spain by Portugal, but the struggle between Spaniards and Portuguese continued for many years.

1820—Patriots under the leadership of José Gervasio Artigas attempted to gain independence, but were defeated by the Spaniards at Tacuarembó. The *Banda Oriental* became part of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil, and Algarve, under the name of Cisplatine Province.

1825—Another patriot, Juan Antonio Llavalleja, framed a declaration of independence containing a statement of adherence to the United Provinces of Río de la Plata (now Argentina). The acceptance of this move by the government at Buenos Aires brought on a war with Brazil on one side, Uruguay and Argentina on the other.

1828—Treaty of peace stipulated Uruguay's independence from both Argentina and Brazil.

1830—The Uruguayan constitution was formally adopted and proclaimed. The first president elected under it was Fructuoso Rivera.

1843–51 The "Great War," during which Montevido was invaded for nine years by troops from Argentina, then governed by Manuel Rosas.

1865–70 The Paraguayan War, one of the costliest in South American history; with Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina on one side and Paraguay, ruled by Francisco Solano López, on the other.

1903—José Batlle y Ordóñez was elected president and started the far-reaching social reforms for which Uruguay is famous.

1919—A new constitution was adopted, with a novel provision whereby the executive power was divided between the president and an elective council of administration.

1934—This arrangement was discontinued by the adoption of a new constitution.

1942—The constitution of 1934 was amended.

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ARTIGAS
ARTIGAS
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BRAZIL
ARGENTINA
RIVER
SALTO
SALTO
RIVERA
TACUAREMBO
PAYSANDU
TACUAREMBO
URUGUAY
PAYSANDU
URUGUAY
NEGRO
YAGUARON RIVER
MELO
CERRO LARGO
RIO NEGRO
RIO
RINCON DEL BONETE
DURAZNO
TREINTA Y TRES
FRAY BENTOS
MERCEDES
DURAZNO
TREINTA Y TRES
LAGUNA MERIN
SORIANO
TRINIDAD
FLORES
FLORIDA
LAVALLEJA
ROCHA
COLONIA
SAN JOSE
FLORIDA
MINAS
COLONIA
SAN JOSE
ROCHA
CANELONES
CANELONES
MALDONADO
ATLANTIC OCEAN
RIO DE LA PLATA
MONTEVIDEO
MALDONADO
PUNTA DEL ESTE

Constitution and Government

Uruguay has had three constitutions during its history as a republic: 1830, 1919, and 1934. The last-named, amended in 1942, is now in force (1949). This provides for a representative, democratic, republican government, divided into the three familiar branches: executive, legislative and judicial.

It might be well to mention some of the specific provisions not usually included in national constitutions: Establishment of the autonomous industrial organizations under state ownership; the regulation of labor conditions in industry and commerce; social insurance; child protection and aid; obligatory primary education and state education; compulsory exercise of the voting privilege; and prohibition of the death penalty. Furthermore, the constitution provides that Uruguay shall propose a clause requiring arbitration or other peaceful settlement of all disputes that might arise from international treaties to which Uruguay may become part.

Citizenship. — Uruguayan citizens over 18 years of age, both men and women, are obliged to vote. Suffrage is universal and balloting is secret. Uruguayan citizenship is acquired either by birth within the country or of parents, one of whom is Uruguayan. Married foreigners may become citizens after living in Uruguay for three years, providing they have property or investments in Uruguay, or if they are engaged in industry, scientific work, or in the pursuit of one of the arts. A noteworthy provision is that which allows such people to vote after living fifteen years in Uruguay without ever acquiring legal citizenship.

Unmarried foreigners, or foreigners married to persons not living in Uruguay, but having the same qualifications as resident married foreigners, may acquire legal citizenship after five years' residence in Uruguay. Full legal citizenship is granted three years after naturalization papers have been taken out. However, if the authorities approve the documents of residence, the voting privilege may be exercised beginning with the date of inscription in the civil register. National elections are supervised by an electoral court.

Executive Branch.—The executive power is vested in the President. He is assisted by a nine-member Council of

Uruguayan Tourist Commission

A bronze tribute to the pioneers who conquered the wilderness during colonial times adorns a park in Montevideo. El Monumento a la Carreta, by the noted sculptor José Belloni, is one of the country's best-loved monuments.

Uruguayan Embassy

Montevideo, a fast-growing city of 850,000 people, is one of the continent's liveliest capitals. Avenida Agraciada slices through the downtown section.

Ministers, chosen by him from the two political parties polling the largest number of votes in the presidential elections. Six of these are selected from the major political party. The President and Vice President are elected by direct popular vote for a four-year term. They cannot succeed themselves. The President must be a "natural citizen" (born in Uruguay or domiciled in Uruguay, having been born of parents one of whom is Uruguayan). He must be at least 35 years of age. The President is charged with promulgating and enforcing the laws of the General Assembly. He is the commander-in-chief of all the armed forces. He appoints diplomatic and consular personnel, in some cases subject to approval by the Senate. He may declare war. He prepares the budget for submittal to the National Assembly and concludes treaties with foreign powers. He concedes industrial privileges. In short, he represents the sovereignty of the nation both at home and abroad. Members of the cabinet, known as ministers of state, function separately as heads of their respective departments and jointly as the Consejo de Ministros (Council of Ministers) in an advisory capacity to the President. There are nine ministries, as follows: Interior, Foreign Relations, Treasury, National Defense, Public Works, Public Health, Agriculture and Stock-raising, Industry and Labor, Public Education and Welfare.

Legislative Branch.—The legislative branch of the Uruguayan government is called the General Assembly. It consists of two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Legislation of all kinds may originate in either chamber, or may be introduced by the Executive branch, through the Ministers of State. The two chambers of the General Assembly may meet either jointly or separately. The General Assembly is empowered to enact laws relative to the independence, security and tranquillity of the country, the protection of individual rights and the development of agriculture, industry and domestic and foreign commerce. The General Assembly approves financial budgets of both the nation and of its political subdivisions known as departments, authorizes the public debt and regulates public credit. The General Assembly has the power to approve declarations of war, treaties of peace, alliances of commerce and all contracts negotiated with other nations by the Executive branch. The General Assembly also elects members of the Supreme Court. It convenes from March 15th to December 15th, except in election years, when it adjourns on October 15th and reconvenes on February 15th of the following year.

The House of Representatives is composed of 99 members. It is elected directly by the people for a four-year term, in proportion to the population. Each Department of the Republic has at least two representatives. Representatives must be at least 25 years of age and either natural citizens or legal citizens of five years' standing. The right to impeach public officials is vested completely in the House of Representatives.

The Senate is composed of 30 members, elected at large, according to the number of votes obtained by each party in the previous general election. Senators are elected directly by the people for a four-year term. Senators must be at least 30 years of age and either natural citizens or legal citizens of seven years' standing. The Senate has the exclusive right to try impeachment cases involving public officials.

There is also a Permanent Commission, consisting of four senators and seven representatives. It acts on behalf of the General Assembly from Decem-

Uruguayan Embassy

The General Assembly, composed of a Senate and House of Representatives, meets at the Legislative Palace in the capital.

ber to March, when the latter is in recess, seeing that the Executive branch of the government operates in accordance with the constitution and with the laws passed by the General Assembly.

Judicial Branch.—Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court, composed of five members appointed for a period of ten years, by the two houses of the General Assembly meeting as a single body.

Justices of the Supreme Court must be at least 40 years of age, natural citizens and lawyers of specified experience. No justice may continue to be a member after reaching the age of 70. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in cases of constitutional, international and admiralty law. It has appellate jurisdiction in cases where original decisions have already been modified by other appellate courts. The Supreme Court appoints the judges of the appellate courts, the *jueces letrados* (judges who are members of the bar), the justices of the peace and the district judges, and has general administrative control over the judicial system of the entire country.

Foreign Relations. — Uruguay is represented in Washington by an Ambassador to the Organization of American States and by an Ambassador to the Government of the United States; and in New York City by a Consul General. There are honorary consular officers in eighteen other cities of the United States.

The United States maintains an Embassy and a Consulate General in Montevideo.

The Republic of Uruguay is a member of the Organization of American States, the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development,

the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The People

At the beginning of its life as a republic, Uruguay had about 74,000 people. In 1947, it had approximately 2,340,000. This makes it the most densely populated South American republic. The present rate of increase is roughly 25,000 per year. The largest clusters of population are found in the southern and southwestern parts of the country, particularly in and around Montevideo. The latter, because of its favorable location on a much-traveled trade crossroads, has attracted the greater part of the country's business enterprises and about one-third of its population. Agriculture, still a minor industry nation-wise, as compared with stock-raising, has been most highly developed in the southern and southwestern parts of the country. This has contributed considerably to the concentration of population in that region.

Uruguayans are largely of European descent. The Indians who were living on the land when the white men came had disappeared entirely by 1832, both through war and natural decline. Spain, the original source of the basic stock, has continued to send settlers. Uruguay has attracted many northern Spaniards, particularly from the province of Galicia. Other immigrants have come from Italy, England and other European countries. The people have a high percentage of literacy and their levels of living are generally recognized as being among the best. The daily per capita calorie consumption (1946–47) was 2,984, according to a study prepared at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The population, capitals and areas of the nineteen political subdivisions or departments, are given on page 11.*

* Latest official estimate, covering up to December 31, 1944.

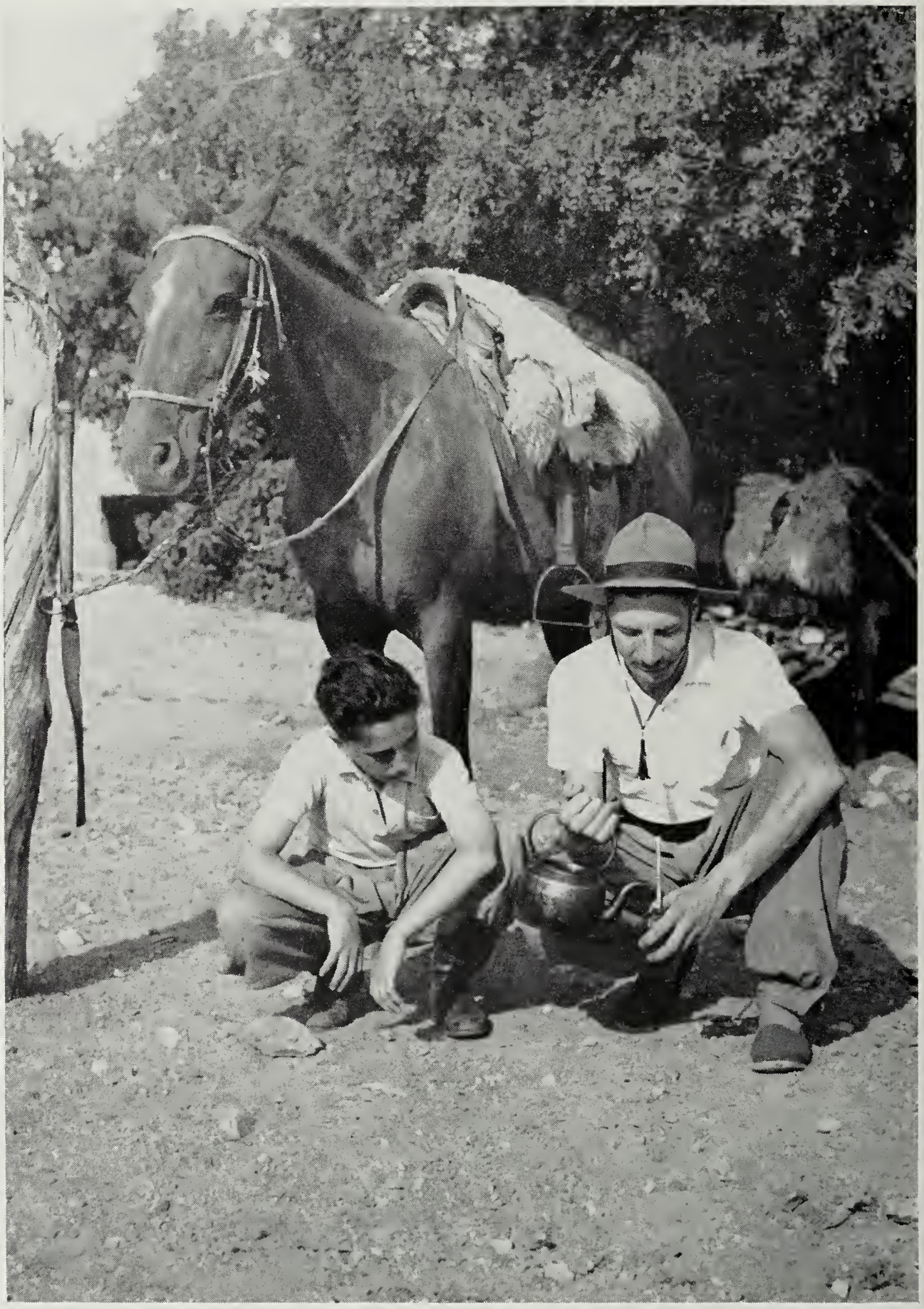
Paysandú, located in the cattle-raising and agricultural region in the interior, is a principal port on the Uruguay River.

Stock-raising is Uruguay's oldest and most profitable industry. Sheep outnumber cattle by more than three to one.

Department of State

Departments	Capitals	Area in square miles	Population
Montevideo	Montevideo [1]	256	850,000
Artigas	Artigas	4,392	57,854
Canelones	Canelones	1,834	202,872
Cerro Largo	Melo	5,763	99,123
Colonia	Colonia	2,193	132,554
Durazno	Durazno	5,526	97,140
Flores	Trinidad	1,744	36,766
Florida	Florida	4,674	107,872
Lavalleja	Minas	4,819	117,328
Maldonado	Maldonado	1,586	68,070
Paysandú	Paysandú	5,115	80,258
Río Negro	Fray Bentos	3,270	48,814
Rivera	Rivera	3,794	77,407
Rocha	Rocha	4,280	84,206
Salto	Salto	4,865	102,987
San José	San José	2,688	98,627
Soriano	Mercedes	3,560	95,527
Tacuarembó	Tacuarembó	8,112	110,986
Treinta y Tres	Treinta y Tres	3,682	70,343

[1] For a more detailed description of the city, see the Pan American Union booklet on *Montevideo*.



Department of State

Though the colorful gaucho of the last century has all but disappeared from the Uruguayan plains, many ranch workers still wear loose, baggy trousers ("bombachas") and rope-soled canvas shoes. And they still brew mate, a hot drink somewhat like tea, in a gourd and sip it through a silver tube called a "bombilla."

National Economy

Stock Raising.—Stock raising, the oldest industry of Uruguay, is still at the base of the country's economy. Of a total area of 37,800,000 acres available for pasturage and agriculture, 34,000,000 acres are devoted to stock raising. The first animals were brought in during the colonial period by Hernando Arias de Saavedra, one of the early governors. From that time to the present day, stock raising has been favored by a happy combination of abundant, rich natural pasture land, an all-year-round temperate climate, and an unusually good water supply.

Production in this industry has been greatly stimulated by the *Asociación Rural del Uruguay* and the *Federación Rural del Uruguay*. They have distributed technical information, worked for the improvement of stock, extended credit and organized expositions.

Saladeros (meat packing establishments) were started early in Uruguay's history. Their production of *tasajo* (jerked beef) gave a tremendous impetus to stock raising. Prior to their establishment, animals had been slaughtered mainly for their hides and wool, as in colonial days. The resulting large quantities of meat could neither be wholly consumed by the country's small population, nor shipped abroad.

The creation of a meat extract plant at Fray Bentos in 1864 and of the first *frigorífico* (freezing plant) in 1905, producing frozen and chilled meat, did much to broaden the export market for Uruguayan meats and thus to encourage the meat industry. Whereas the *saladeros* had formerly handled all meat exports in the form of jerked beef, exported entirely to Brazil and Cuba, they decreased in importance until, by 1938, they were handling only 4,000 out of a total of almost 2,500,000 animals slaughtered.

Stock raising is carried on in all parts of Uruguay, including the small Department of Montevideo. The distribution of cattle and sheep is fairly even throughout the country, though the Departments of Tacuarembó, Durazno, Salto, Artigas, Cerro Largo, Paysandú, Soriano, and Río Negro are somewhat in the lead. Recent censuses of animals show total numbers as follows: Sheep, 24,000,000 (1947); cattle, 7,000,000 (1947); horses, 545,580 (1948) and hogs, 250,000 (1948).

The preponderance of sheep-raising is explained by the high prices obtainable for wool, thus making it more profitable than cattle-raising.

A significant development in the cattle industry has been the trend toward increased domestic consumption. A perusal of the following figures will reveal to what extent Uruguay's own requirements are reversing a situation which prevailed in the past, whereby more cattle were exported than used at home.

	1946	1947	1948 (11 months)
Total No. of Cattle Slaughtered	897,445	727,741	783,162
For Export	478,715	298,183	335,334
For Local Consumption	418,730	429,558	447,828

Wool production, which plays such a leading part in Uruguay's economy, was the highest on record in 1947–48, namely 68,000,000 metric tons. For the season 1948–49, the clip is estimated at about the same as last year. Uruguay consumes about 11 percent of this production. About 64 percent is exported to the United States.

Agriculture.—Compared with stock raising, agriculture occupies a minor place. Yet, the last decade has seen

Department of State

Dock workers hoist sacks of meat aboard ship in Montevideo's bustling harbor. About 41 percent of the country's animal industry output is exported.

a steady increase in crop acreage and in the number of people engaged in farming. In fact, the growth of agriculture is noteworthy when compared with the relatively static condition of the livestock industry, which attained its peak some years ago.

About 3,780,000 acres, or roughly 10 percent of the potentially productive land, are cultivated. The average annual value of agricultural production amounts to 320,000,000 pesos or about 53 percent of the total value of all production. The cereals (wheat, corn, oats and barley) and linseed are the principal crops grown.

Sections in which agriculture has been developed most are situated toward the west and south, near the Uruguay River and the Río de la Plata. Soriano, Colonia and San José are the largest producers of wheat and flax; corn is grown largely in Canelones, San José and Lavalleja; while oats, the leading forage crop, are produced mostly in Soriano and Colonia.

Wheat is the country's foremost harvest. About 526,000 acres are sown annually to this cereal. The annual production came to around 457,000 tons (1947–48 crop season). A large part of this was absorbed by Uruguayan mills which supply flour for both the domestic and foreign markets, while about 150,000 tons were made available for exports. Corn, oats, barley, and flax are also produced in considerable quantities. The flax production was 97,950 metric tons in 1947–48, yielding 25,000 tons of linseed oil, largely for export. Uruguayan flax, as can be seen from this, is not grown for fiber.

In the northern part of Uruguay,

there are extensive groves of citrus fruits. The latter command high prices in Montevideo and Uruguay as a whole. Oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and tangerines are both exported and used by domestic factories. The peach crop in 1948 was one of the best recorded. Tomatoes, asparagus, beans, and nearly all kinds of truck vegetables are grown in the Departments of Montevideo, Canelones and Colonia for consumption in the metropolitan area of Montevideo. Occasionally, there are surpluses for shipment abroad. Practically all the country's vineyards are located in the Departments of Montevideo and Canelones. Yearly production of grapes is about 130,170 metric tons (1948). Most of these are pressed in the Montevideo wineries. The annual wine production is about 65,768,000 liters (1947). Sunflower seed and peanuts are produced in quantities sufficient for domestic consumption.

Area and Production of Principal Crops Harvested in the Crop Year 1947–48

(Revised to January 5, 1949)

Product	Area Sown (in hectares)	Production (in metric tons)
Wheat	526,045	459,909
Flax seed	222,806	97,950
Oats	64,918	37,950
Barley	20,896	13,059
Birdseed	2,479	775
Rye	365	147
Corn	206,080	152,985
Sunflower seed	79,375	44,556
Peanuts	17,766	12,131
Rice	13,372	43,715

Uruguay at the present time (1949) is changing from extensive cattle ranging to intensive agriculture and dairying. The government is encouraging this trend. In 1948, a land reform law of major significance was passed. This gives the government the right to break up large estates and sell land to farmer cooperatives in smaller parcels.

Agriculture, encouraged by the government, is gaining importance as a national industry. The richest farm lands lie in the west and south, near the Uruguay River and the Río de la Plata.

Department of State

Mining.—Uruguay has few mineral deposits. There are gold mines in the Department of Rivera but total production is only about 600 or 700 grams. The non-metallic minerals, however, are more important. Marble is found in Lavalleja and Florida; granite in Maldonado and Canelones; and agates, opals, and onyx in Salto and Artigas. Limestone, used in the cement plants, is quarried in Lavalleja and Florida. Considerable amounts of talc are extracted in Colonia. Common stone and sand are to be found almost anywhere in Uruguay. They are profitable export items.

Manufacturing.—Uruguay lacks the basic energy-producing raw materials, such as coal, iron or petroleum. Yet, various industries have been established. These have been able to supply many of the requirements formerly satisfied by imports. Industrial expansion has been aided by various measures, such as protective tariff on finished goods, exemption of certain types of machinery equipment and raw material from import duties, and the accumulation of foreign and domestic investments in manufacturing enterprises. Thus, imports of some lines formerly purchased abroad have either been materially reduced or entirely eliminated.

It is important to remember that the government plays a leading role in many fields. The state is engaged in a variety of business activity, chiefly through independent agencies set up by and responsible to the state. These agencies, however, are completely removed from politics.

Meat processing is carried out at several large *frigoríficos* in Montevideo, one at Paysandú, at the *saladeros* already mentioned and the factories where meat extracts are produced.

The Uruguay Government has a monopoly on the sale of meat to Montevideo's inhabitants. It runs one of the *frigoríficos* of that city. It also engages in foreign trade. The other *frigoríficos* are owned by United States and British companies.

Some of the fields in finance and industry in which government-created agencies operate are: electric power; telegraph; telephone and postal services; meat packing; seal fishing; the manufacture of chemicals, petroleum and cement; banking and mortgage financing; insurance; retail food distribution; the Montevideo port works;

Moore-McCormick Lines

Navigable waterways more than half surround Uruguay. Off the rocky coast of Isla de Lobos the Río de la Plata runs into the Atlantic Ocean.

Department of State

In the interior of Uruguay—the most densely populated South American country—hilly plains stretch endlessly into the distance.

railroads; water works; hotels and pleasure resorts.

In 1931, the *Administración Nacional de Combustibles, Alcohol y Cemento Portland,* popularly known as ANCAP, was organized by law. This is one of the government-established but independent agencies referred to above. ANCAP is responsible for importing, refining and selling petroleum products throughout the country, in agreement with private enterprises. It also exercises a monopoly on the importation and resale of alcohol and various alcohol derivatives. ANCAP also handles the sale of coal, both to the state and to the public, and of Portland cement for public works.

Another independent state agency is called *Usinas Eléctricas del Estado*

Uruguayan Embassy

Some of the world's finest beaches fringe the Uruguayan coast, from Montevideo to the Brazilian border. Pocitos, one of the most popular of these playgrounds, adjoins the capital.

(State Electricity Plants). This agency produces electricity for Montevideo. Kilowatt hour production for the entire country increased from 2,223 in 1901 to 360,000,000 in 1947.

Early in 1937, a contract for constructing an immense hydroelectric project on the Río Negro was signed. This plant has now been completed. The project involved the regulation of the river (making it navigable for 370 miles), the creation of an artificial lake (used by the fishing industry) and increased rural electrification, besides providing practically all electric power for Montevideo. It is doing away with the more expensive production of electric energy from coal or petroleum.

Foreign Trade.—The importance of foreign trade to Uruguay's national economy can be gauged by the fact that in 1947 customs' receipts brought in more revenues than direct taxes (72,889,000 pesos as against 62,935,000 pesos).* For the first 11 months of 1948 the total came to 232,929,000 pesos; out of this, 46,086,000 pesos were from customs' receipts and 71,984,000 from direct taxes.

Imports.—The most important imports into Uruguay in 1947, by percentage of total value, were: Raw materials, 28.3; drygoods and general merchandise, 9.8; automotive vehicles, 9.2; foodstuffs, 8.1; construction materials, 6.9; combustibles and lubricants, 6.3.

The principal supplier of Uruguay's imports has been the United States (42.5 percent in 1947, dropping to 33.5 percent during the first ten months of 1948). Great Britain follows with 7.8 percent in 1947, increasing to 12.8 percent by November 1948.

* For 1947 average exchange rate see page 23.

Exports.—The leading exports of Uruguay in 1947, by percentage of total value were: Wool, 43.8; manufactured farm products, 17.4; meat, 15.7; hides and hairs, 12.7. About 41 percent of Uruguay's animal industry output is sold abroad.

The principal market for Uruguay exports is the United States, providing over 28 percent of the total in 1947 and the first 10 months of 1948. Great Britain follows with 12.3 percent in 1947 and 15.6 percent in the first ten months of 1948.

The operations of the ECA (European Recovery Administration) increased the volume of Uruguay's exports during 1948. The total ECA allocations for purchases in Uruguay had reached $5,000,000 by November 15, 1948. This covered hides, meat and oil cake required by the Netherlands, Bizonia, Denmark and Italy.

Transportation and Communications

Railroads.—The 1,874 miles of railroad (1947) which fan out from Montevideo northward through the entire country, are of standard gauge track. They connect Montevideo with the interior cities of Fray Bentos, Mercedes, Paysandú, Salto, Melo, Treinta y Tres, Colonia, Durazno and nearly every other Uruguayan city of importance. At four points on the border of Brazil they connect with railways of that country. This makes it possible to go by rail from Montevideo to the Brazilian cities of São Paulo, Santos and Rio de Janeiro. There are five important railroad systems. One of these is state-owned. It is operated by the *Administración de Ferrocarriles y Tranvías del Estado* (State Railway and Streetcar Administration). The other four were privately owned but under government control, until their recent purchase.

The Uruguayan Central runs right across the country from Montevideo, on the south, to Rivera, on the Brazilian border. An extension of this railroad runs westward from Montevideo to Mercedes, a port on the Río Negro. Another runs to Colonia on

Moore-McCormick Lines

Punta del Este, which dips into the Atlantic about a hundred miles east of Montevideo, is a superb seaside resort.

the Río de la Plata, while a third extension, running in a northeasterly direction, connects Montevideo with Treinta y Tres and Melo. The State Railroads operate eastward from Montevideo to Rocha and Maldonado, semi-resort cities. They also connect Florida with Sarandí del Yí, Treinta y Tres with Río Branco and have several shorter lines in the interior. The Midland Railroad, 319 miles in length, links Fray Bentos, Paysandú and Salto, on the Uruguay River, and joins with the Central's main lines.

On January 31, 1949, the Government of Uruguay formally took over the previously British-owned Central Uruguay Railroad for a payment amounting to about $28,000,000.

Rivers.—Of Uruguay's many waterways, the Río de la Plata and the Uruguay River are by far the most important. Together, they provide 500 of the total 700 miles of navigable waters available to the country. Besides Montevideo, the only ports of consequence on the estuary of the Río de la Plata are Maldonado, Sauce and Colonia. The last-named is directly across from Buenos Aires, Argentina, with which it is linked by ferry.

The Uruguay River can take ocean-going vessels of 14-foot draft as far as Paysandú. Beyond that point northward to Salto, the maximum allowable draft is nine feet. Immediately above Salto, cataracts prevent further northward navigation. There are about ten river ports on the Uruguay River. Four of these are especially important: Nueva Palmira, Fray Bentos, Paysandú and Salto.

The Río Negro, emptying into the Uruguay River, is open to navigation as far as the port of Mercedes, an important railroad terminus.

Highways.—Uruguay has some of South America's best paved highways. The finest road in the country runs from Montevideo to Colonia, a distance of 112 miles. This was built of reinforced concrete and was opened in 1934. Together with the ferry service from Colonia to Buenos Aires, it provides quick communication with the Argentine capital.

Like the railroads, the highways radiate from the capital to the principal interior cities, reaching the Brazilian border at various points. They supplement the railroad system by connecting population centers not served by rail.

Total road mileage is placed at 3,051 (1947). The best roads are in the south, fanning out from Montevideo. Good highways lace the entire southern waterfront and facilitate the increasing flow of traffic between Montevideo and the numerous popular beach resorts along the estuary of the Río de la Plata. The number of motor vehicles is estimated at 50,000 (1947), or one car for every 50 inhabitants. There has been a steady increase of motor vehicles in operation.

Postal Service.—Nearly all towns have post offices. Air mail service is provided to Europe, and all countries in the Americas. Uruguay is a member of the Universal Postal Union and the Pan American Postal Union.

Telegraph.—There are about 1,874 miles of telegraph lines other than those of the railroads (1947). The telegraph and cable services connect with points throughout the world.

Telephone.—There are about 71,730 subscribers. Telephone and radio telephone services also connect with points throughout the world.

Radio.—There are 59 radio stations listed in Uruguay (1949). Of these, 45 are broadcasting in the medium frequency band, ranging in frequen-

Department of State

Avenida 18 de Julio, one of the capital's busiest avenues, is crowded with shops and shoppers.

cies from 550 kilocycles to 1600 kilocycles and in power from 50 watts to 25,000 watts. There are 14 stations in the short-wave band (above 1600 kilocycles) with power ranging from 200 to 20,000 watts.

Air Service.—Montevideo is connected by air with points throughout the Americas by Pan American Airways. Domestic airlines were first established in 1936.

Steamship.—Steamship service connects Montevideo and all other important world ports.

Finance

The monetary unit of Uruguay is the peso of 100 centésimos. Other than the centésimo, there are subsidiary coins of 50, 20, 5 and 2 centésimos. The use of the metric decimal system is obligatory under laws of 1862 and 1894.

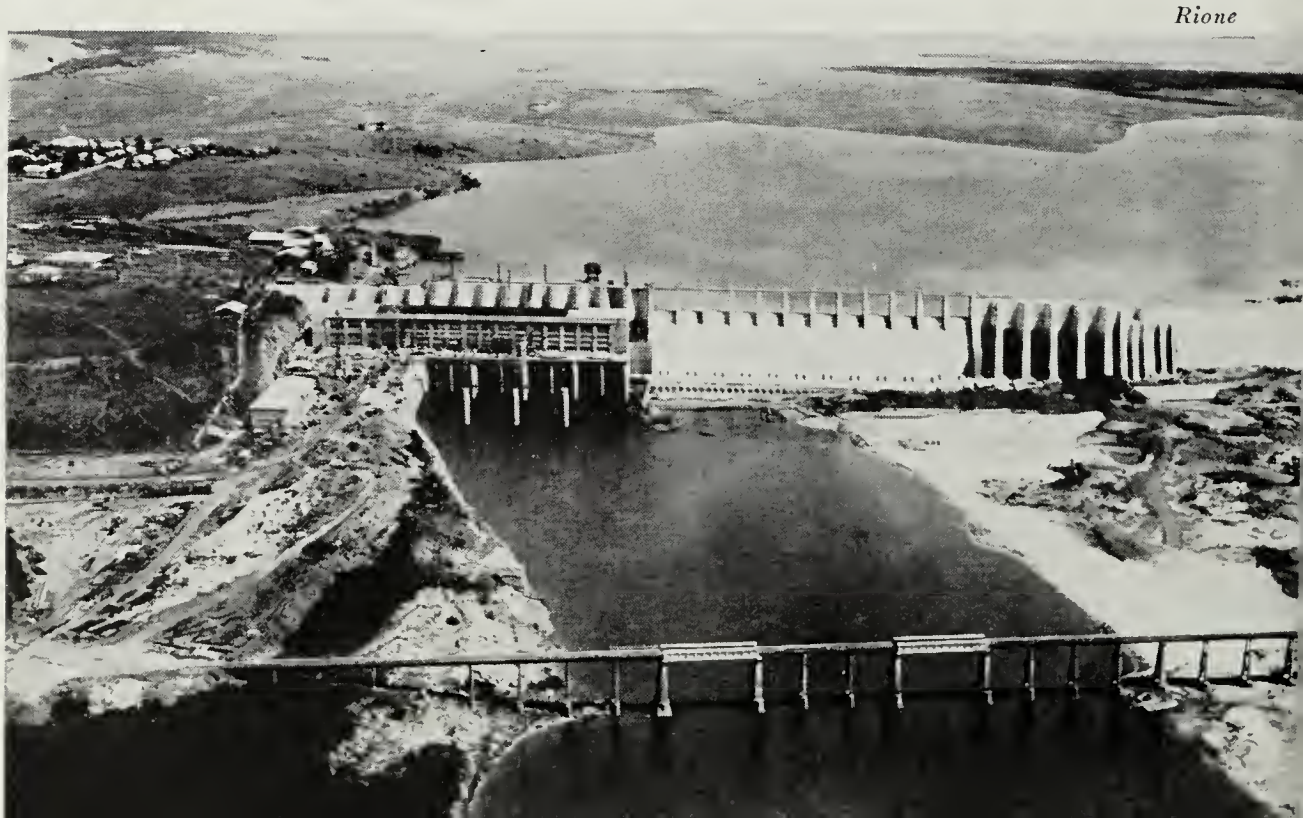
The *Banco de la República Oriental del Uruguay* was founded by a law of 1896. Its headquarters are in Montevideo. The law of July 1911 revised its organization and made it the sole bank of issue. It may discount, rediscount and grant credit against proper security and within certain limitations, purchase and sell gold and silver, engage in domestic and foreign exchange operations, conduct a general banking deposit business, make loans against certificates of deposit on merchandise, and in general, engage in all kinds of commercial and financial transactions. The Bank, on the other hand, may not purchase or sell gold or silver on the Stock Exchange, make loans or engage in speculation on the Exchange, make outright purchases of stocks or other holdings in private enterprises, make loans to organizations or persons outside Uruguay not having their legal residences in the country independent of the foreign home office, or take part directly or indirectly in commercial or industrial activities of any nature.

Several changes and amendments to the law have been enacted since 1911, including provisions for capital increases but there have been no changes in the basic principles of the law.

The Bank has nine branches in Montevideo, including the *Caja Nacional de Ahorros y Descuentos* (Savings and Discount Bank); the *Mer-*

The waters of the Río Negro, the country's largest river, are backed into an enormous lake by the Rincón del Bonete power dam. This gigantic hydroelectric project supplies Montevideo, 150 miles to the south, with practically all its electricity.

Rione



Uruguayan Ministry of Social Security

The National Housing Institute, the republic's chief housing agency, has built over a thousand low-cost homes for rental or sale. All developments are carried out according to modern architectural design and site planning, and some include nurseries and low-cost restaurants where free lunches are served to school children.

cado de Frutas (Fruit Market Agency); and the *Granero Oficial* (Official Grain Bureau). There are about 65 branches and grain bureaus in the various departments throughout the country. The Bank has agents in other South American republics, the United States and Europe.

In addition to the Bank of the Republic, there are numerous banks operating with Uruguayan private capital. There are also branches of foreign banking concerns.

Uruguay's national debt has had its ups and downs throughout the years. In 1900 it was 125,506,953 pesos, decreasing until 1905, when it was less than 121,500,000 pesos. From then until the end of 1939, it increased to 398,000,000 pesos though there were decreases during the intervening years, in 1910, 1911, 1927, 1928, 1931 and 1935. The national public debt totaled 770,113,632 pesos (April 30, 1949).

The government revenues in 1947 amounted to 240,900,000 pesos. Expenditures for the same year were 231,-800,000 pesos.

The average exchange rates of the Uruguayan peso as against the dollar, for 1947, were as follows: Controlled, $.6583; non-controlled, $.56239; expressed conversely, the number of Uruguayan pesos per dollar during that year was: Controlled, 1.90; uncontrolled, 2.50.

Social Welfare.—No treatise on Uruguay, however short, would be complete without some description of the social advances which have been achieved there. Uruguay has rightly been called the "social laboratory of the Americas."

The eight-hour day, for instance, was established there four years before it was instituted in the United States.

Department of State

A shepherd leads his flock along a country road.

Provisions for child welfare, state care for mothers, minimum wages (including farm workers), compulsory vacations with pay and full medical care for poor people, have been written into the constitution.

The benefits to the working class, which in many other countries are inseparably identified almost entirely with the organized efforts of the workers themselves, here have grown naturally out of a concerted desire of all classes to promote the nation's progress on the foundation of well-being of all its citizens. Nevertheless, labor unions have done their part in actively promoting the workers' welfare.

In matters of public health, Uruguay is doubly favored. Situated by nature in a temperate clime, which frees her from many of the diseases that beset her more tropical sister republics to the north, Uruguay also has the good fortune to have developed a sound philosophy which recognizes good health as an inalienable right of all citizens.

The latest advances in such fields as radiography, radiotherapy and psychiatry are studied and utilized. Pharmacies are inspected regularly. Pasteurization of milk is required in certain localities; considerable attention is given to industrial hygiene. Food and drug inspection is an important activity.

As a result of this vigorous program, great progress has been achieved.

Some of the important institutions operating in the field of public health are the National Institute of Hygiene, the Medical School, the National Institute of Endocrinology, the National Institute of Nutrition and the Martirené Hospital devoted to tuberculosis research.

Culture

EDUCATION.—Even before winning her independence, Uruguay adopted a forward-looking system of education. Preliminary legislation passed during the struggle for independence was followed by the enactment in 1827 of the first public education law. Most far-reaching of Uruguayan cultural achievements was the *Reforma Escolar* (Educational Reform) of José Pedro Varela. Convinced that the spread of learning among the people is the basis of true democracy, Varela devoted his life to making public education a national cause. His proposed law was passed in 1877, centralizing the country's schools. All branches of learning, including rural education, were encouraged; schools and libraries were built; modern curricula stressing scientific, humanistic, and practical training were introduced; and primary education was extended and made compulsory. By making public education free, obligatory, and democratic, Varela's Reform raised the general level of culture. Illiteracy, according to the latest available census figures (1938), is only ten percent in Uruguay as a whole, and there is almost none in Montevideo.

Important educators in Uruguay's past, besides Varela, were Dámaso Larrañaga of the colonial period, Jacobo Varela, Francisco Berra, María Stagnero de Munar, and Alfredo Vázquez Acevedo. Leaders of educational science at present include Carlos Vaz Ferreira, E. Compte Riqué, Santín Carlos Rossi, and Sabas Olaizola.

Education, from kindergarten through the university, is free to Uruguayans and foreigners who wish to study; even books and laboratory fees are paid for by the government. Religion is not taught in public schools.

The Uruguayan government has built three large model schools, called *escuelas experimentales,* in Las Piedras and Progreso, in the Department of Canelones, and in the Malvín district of Montevideo. Here the latest developments in progressive education are tried out and passed on to the nation's normal schools, teacher-training centers, and most secondary schools.

Children must begin school at the age of six and continue through six years of primary studies. In 1945-46 there were 1,805 elementary schools, in which 223,295 students were enrolled. Over 1,620 of these schools were public, and about 1,085 were

Uruguayan Embassy

Not far from the Brazilian border is Santa Teresa National Park, where Uruguayans and tourists swim, camp, and wander through flower gardens, a zoo, and a museum. At the center of the park is star-shaped Santa Teresa Fortress, which was begun in the 18th century by the Portuguese, completed by the Spaniards who won it in battle, and restored in this century by the Uruguayan Government.

Department of State

Besides its pools, statues, gardens, and amusement centers, Parque Rodó contains the Municipal Summer Theater and the National Museum of Fine Arts. Other favorites with Montevideans are Parque Batlle y Ordóñez, El Prado, and Parque Nacional Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Department of State

Thousands of fans jam the Centenary Stadium, in the capital, to watch a game of soccer—the country's number one sport. Rivalry runs high between the major teams, Peñarol and Nacional. Polo, basketball, and horse-racing also have an enthusiastic following among Uruguayans.

rural public schools. Elementary school teachers numbered about 6,800 in 1946, as compared with 1,161 in 1901.

From primary schools, students may enter institutions of secondary education which, like practically all Uruguayan schools, are co-educational. General secondary school courses last four years, and may be followed by a two-year course in the student's major field in preparation for university studies. At the end of six years of secondary studies, students receive the degree of *bachiller*. In 1948 there were 12 official *liceos,* or secondary schools, in the capital, and 39 in the rest of the country. Private secondary schools that were accredited by the government numbered 38. The number of students enrolled in secondary schools in 1947 was 30,865, of whom 5,240 were registered in the two-year college preparatory course.

Instead of entering *liceos* after completing primary school, students may attend normal, technical, or military institutions. Girls and boys from all over the country study to become teachers at the once-separate *Institutos Normales "María Stagnero de Munar" y "Joaquín R. Sánchez"*. The seven-year course in this normal school includes four years of secondary education and three years of specialized teacher-training. Theory is combined with practical experience, as it is in the nation's technical education program. All professional and technical schools are grouped under the *Universidad del Trabajo* (a polytechnic school), which was established in 1942. Arts and crafts, domestic science, and advanced industrial training are taught, along with some cultural courses, in the 11 schools of the *Universidad del Trabajo* in the capital and the 33 in other parts of the country. Most of them are co-educational.

The National University, opened in 1849, is one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the Americas. Its ten schools are as follows: Law and Social Sciences, Medicine, Economic Sciences and Administration, Dentistry, Chemistry and Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, Engineering, Architecture, and Humanities and Sciences. Courses take from 3 to 7 years, depending on the school. Humanities and Sciences, which includes classes in philosophy and letters, is at present (1949) being reorganized and does not grant degrees. In 1946–47 there were over 14,500 students enrolled at the University, not including the schools of Humanities and Veterinary Medicine.

Physical, mental, and social defectives are cared for in summer camps, in the country's 21 open-air schools, or in special institutions like the two schools for deaf-mutes. Adult education is directed by the Council of Primary and Normal Education.

Cultural Institutions.—All forms of culture are encouraged by the government. Any interested *montevideano* may attend lectures or classes at the free *Instituto de Estudios Superiores* (Institute of Higher Learning). The Ministry of Public Education also supervises the National Museum of Fine Art, the Juan Zorilla de San Martín Museum, the National Historical Museum, the General Archives of the Nation, the Museum of Natural History, the School of Fine Arts, the Official Broadcasting Service *(Servicio Oficial de Difusión Radio Eléctrica,* known as SODRE), the National Commission of Fine Arts, the National Library, the National Commission of Physical Education, the General Council of Penal Institutions, and the Child Welfare Board.

The activities of these government-directed institutions and groups are intense and varied. SODRE, for example, now provides the nation with

Education, entirely free in Uruguay, is open to women as well as men. Students are instructed in arts and crafts, home-making, and industrial techniques at the Universidad del Trabajo's 44 schools that are scattered throughout the country. *(Department of State)*

concerts, opera, and ballet performances, and plans to open conservatories and schools. The National Library, founded in 1816 during the wars of Independence, is the country's leading storehouse of learning. It cooperates with municipal and private libraries throughout Uruguay. To stimulate literary, musical, artistic, and scientific achievements, the Ministry regularly awards prizes, fellowships, travel grants, and sponsors an exchange of teachers and students. Concerts, scientific and artistic expositions, and lectures are often open to the public at the University. The *Academia Nacional de Letras* (National Academy of Letters) and the honorary *Comisión Nacional de Investigaciones Literarias* (National Commission of Literary Studies) are supported by the Ministry of Education. *La Revista Nacional* is the official publication of the Ministry, which also sponsors *Alfar, Hiperión,* and the *Anales* of the National Academy of Letters. Other literary magazines are *Escritura* and *Clynamen.*

Department of State

The National University, in Montevideo, is one of America's top-ranking institutions of higher learning.

Besides promoting culture through its own channels, the government subsidizes organizations like *Amigos del Arte* (Friends of Art) and the *Junta Nacional de Teatro* (National Theater Board). Other private cultural associations that bring art, music, and literature to the people include the *Asociación Intelectual de Artistas, Pintores y Escritores,* AIAPE (Intellectual Association of Artists, Painters, and Writers). Painting, sculpture, and industrial exhibits are regularly presented in the capital by the National Commission of Fine Arts and the Municipal Cultural Commission. Organizations made up of Uruguayans and resident foreigners, like the *Alianza Cultural Uruguay-Estados Unidos,* the *Institutos de Cultura Anglo-Uruguayo* and *Brasileño-Uruguayo,* are also important cultural centers.

Extending beyond the field of historical investigation to exert considerable influence on Uruguayan culture are the *Instituto Histórico y Geográfico del Uruguay,* which was established in 1843, and the *Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas,* under the direction of the University's School of Humanities and Sciences.

SCIENCES.—Uruguay began early in its history to contribute to science. The effect of New World conditions upon the plants and animals brought from Europe was studied and recorded between 1773 and 1813 by José Manuel Pérez Castellano, whose *Observations on Agriculture* has become a classic in natural history. His contemporary, Dámaso Larrañaga, was also a botanist of first-rank, besides being active in educational reform. *Flora Uruguaya* is the basic work of José Arechavaleta, a Spanish-born botanist, bacteriologist, and long-time director of the Museum of Natural History in Montevideo. Natural history, archaeology, and Uruguayan history were some of Teodoro Vilardebó's fields of study; medical science, especially the investigation of yellow fever, however, was his main interest.

A large group of scientists and physicians, following Vilardebó's example, established the School of Medicine in the capital and built up many of its excellent institutes and laboratories. Francisco Soca and Américo Ricaldoni were among these eminent representatives of Uruguayan medical science. Nine institutes devoted to the study and cure of diseases operate under the School of Medicine, while the School of Veterinary Medicine sponsors almost as many similar institutions. Clemente Estable, director of the School of Humanities' Institute of Biological Investigation and Sciences; Julio María Sosa, assistant director; and Ergasto Cordero, director of the Museum of Natural History, are leaders of scientific thought today. Angel C. Maggiolo, founder and director of the School of Medicine's Institute of Physiological Sciences, has also contributed to the advancement of all branches of science. The name Eduardo García de Zúñiga has been linked with mathematics and engineering since the last century, and Walter Hill, who is also a University professor, is an outstanding physicist.

Uruguay has produced many notable social scientists, as well as authorities on exact and physical sciences. Indeed, men like Roberto Berro and Emilio Fournie, officials in the Inter-American Institute for the Protection of Childhood, combine their medical training with an active interest in social problems. The modern counterpart of the 19th century geographer and cartographer José María Reyes is Eleazar Giuffra. Eduardo Acevedo, author of the most complete history of Uruguay, heads the list of prominent historians. Colonial history has been

ably recorded by Francisco Bauzá; the struggle for independence, by Alcides de María and Carlos María Ramírez; diplomatic history, by Andrés Lamas; and the contemporary period by José Salgado. Among the leading modern historians are Juan E. Pivel Devoto and J. M. Fernández Saldana.

Government, economics, and law have been studied extensively by Uruguayan scholars. Joaquín Requena, Tristán Narvaja, and the historian Eduardo Acevedo were 19th century codifiers of civil and commercial law. José Irureta Goyena is an expert on penal law; Juan José Amézaga, on civil law; Juan Andrés Ramírez and Juan Antonio Buero, on international law. Martín C. Martínez wrote numerous studies on constitutional government and economy, as well as on law. The well-known statesman Alberto Domínguez Cámpera is a present-day authority on international law, and Juan Carbajal Victorica, on administrative law.

Literature.—Uruguay's literary life had its real start in the early 19th century; during the colonial period, letters had been limited largely to scientific, educational, and religious tracts. The struggle for independence produced Bartolomé Hidalgo, soldier, writer, and first of the gaucho poets. A *montevideano* himself, he introduced into verse the language of the country-folk.

When Andrés Lamas and the Argentine *émigré* Miguel Cané founded the newspaper *El Iniciador,* in 1838, romanticism was launched on the left bank of the La Plata River. Of the numerous romantic poems based on the customs and legends of native tribes in the Río de la Plata region, *Tabaré* (1886), by Juan Zorrilla de San Martín, is considered the greatest. This poem, describing the death throes of the native race, has crossed Uruguayan borders, until it now represents to the world one of the genuine epics of America. The national poet of Uruguay, Zorilla de San Martín

Isabel Aretz

A guitar player in the Department of Durazno.

Library of Congress

An eighteenth century neo-classical church in Santo Domingo, Soriano.

combined lyrical romantic sentiment with vigorous descriptions of the wilderness, of primitive Indian rites, and of the Spanish conquest.

About the time *Tabaré* appeared, *Ismael,* the first great Uruguayan novel, was written by Eduardo Acevedo Díaz. It was first in a series of historical romances, epic in breadth and conception. The influence of European romantics is evident in all of Acevedo Díaz' work.

Naturalism replaced romanticism in Uruguayan letters at the end of the 19th century. Realism and objectivity became the rule for writers like Javier de Viana, master of the tale of Creole life. His novels and short stories are documents of the harsh life of the plains. The realistic, psychological, philosophical, and didactic novel reached perfection in the hands of Carlos Reyles, who towers above other modern Uruguayan authors. *La Raza de Caín (The Race of Cain)* is probably the most forceful and finished novel written by Reyles, who also distinguished himself as an essayist and short story writer. Although the poet and short story writer Horacio Quiroga spent much of his life in Argentina, he figures prominently in his native Uruguayan literature. His best-known books are *Cuentos de Amor de Locura y de Muerte (Stories of Love, Madness, and Death)* and *El Salvaje (The Savage).* Other good novelists and authors of short stories are Francisco Espínola and Felisberto Hernández.

With the presentation of *M'hijo el Doctor (My Kid, the Doctor)* in 1903, Florencio Sánchez brought the Uruguayan theater into its flowering. The naturalist spirit of Zola—pessimistic,

Urguayan tots play ring-around-a-rosy alongside the main building of the Association for the Protection of Childhood, in midtown Montevideo.

Department of State

realistic, and bitter—that is present in Sánchez' plays is counter-balanced by the author's tender pity for humanity. His follower, Ernesto Herrera, won a place in the theater, even though he lived barely beyond adolescence. Notable modern playwrights include the novelist José Pedro Bellán, Francisco Imhoff, Víctor Pérez Petit, who was also an important critic and novelist, Carlos María Princivalle, and Justino Zavala Muniz. Prize-winning plays are also written today by José María Podestá, in collaboration with his wife, Clotilde Luisi de Podestá, and by Carlos Denis Molina.

Critics and essayists have been few among Uruguayan writers; yet the most eminent Latin American essayist was an Uruguayan. Aside from the excellence of his prose, José Enrique Rodó was hailed by all of Spanish America as the guiding spirit of his time. His monumental work *Ariel* (1900) best expresses, in elegant modernist style, his humanistic idealism. The reaction against North American utilitarianism and plea for a return to the spiritual values of culture, *arielismo* became the ethical principle for youth throughout the continent. Rodó's profound thinking is also evident in his less familiar philosophic works and literary criticism.

Another important philosopher, overshadowed by the gigantic figure of Rodó, is Carlos Vaz Ferreira, whose studies in modern methods of education have also won for him a pre-eminent place in Uruguayan culture. Alberto Zum Felde has long been the outstanding literary critic of his country. Osvaldo Crispo Acosta ("Lauxar"), Alberto Lasplaces, and Giselda Zani also make valuable contributions to literary criticism. The group of contemporary essayists includes Enrique Rodríguez Fabregat, Eduardo J. Couture, Ildefonso Pereda Valdez, Jesualdo, and Juan C. Sabat Pebet.

Modernism, the cult of "art for art's sake," found its leader in Rodó. Reyles, too, adopted some of its techniques. Another modernist who occupies a privileged place among Uruguayan writers is the poet Julio Herrera y Reissig. Inspired by the French symbolists, his poetry ranges from simple lyricism to extreme complexity. Carlos Roxlo, author of romantic verse after

the romantic period had passed, was another widely-read poet of about the same period.

Women have played a tremendous part in Uruguayan letters. Delmira Agustini and Juana de Ibarbourou rank with Latin America's great poetesses. Both of these post-modernists are linked by an intense subjectivity; yet while Delmira Agustini was a tragic figure, Juana de Ibarbourou is light-hearted and optimistic. Life, death, and love, a thirst for the infinite, inspired the passionate lyrics of Delmira Agustini. Nature and the exaltation of love are recurrent themes in the simple, idyllic verses of "Juana de América." Slightly before their time, María Eugenia Vaz Ferreira wrote bitter, melancholy poetry. Luisa Luisi is well known both for her literary criticism and her poetry.

A new generation of poetesses has arisen. Ester de Cáceres, Sara de Ibáñez, Sara Bollo, and Orfila Bardesio are its most brilliant representatives.

Lyric poetry is as varied as the men who write it today. Emilio Oribe's is profound and intellectualized; Emilio Frugoni's sings of his native Montevideo; Pedro Leandro Ipuche's regional, *nativista* verse is more subjective than that of Fernán Silva Valdés, whose vision of country folk and things is more direct. Jules Supervielle writes in French, sometimes about his native Uruguay; Vicente Basso Maglio best expresses the surrealistic trend in his country; and Carlos Sabat Ercasty possesses considerable lyric power and depth of thought.

Uruguayan children are lulled to sleep by the *Songs of Natacha,* written by the nation's greatest living literary figure, Juana de Ibarbourou. José H. Figueira revolutionized the teaching of reading in Uruguayan schools in 1892, when he introduced a new series of text books. His son, Gastón Figueira, is an outstanding poet, literary critic, and author of children's literature. Montiel Ballesteros, Humberto Zorilla, R. Abadie Soriano, and Ernesto Pinto also have a wide following among Uruguay's young readers.

The modern Hospital de Clínicas, in the capital, is among Latin America's biggest and best hospitals. Throughout the country, medical treatment is given free to the poor.

Uruguayan Embassy

THE PLASTIC ARTS. — European painters living in Montevideo dominated Uruguayan art during the first half of the 19th century. Juan Manuel Blanes was the gigantic figure of the period of re-birth, during the second half of the century. An extreme realist, Blanes painted naturalistic portraits and solid illustrations of local history. The "Juan Manuel Blanes" Municipal Museum of Fine Arts in the capital is but one of the tributes paid him by his countrymen. Like him, his contemporaries Eduardo Carbajal, Diógenes Hequet, and Domingo Laporte painted in a naturalistic style.

During the upheaval of the early 20th century, when traditional artistic values were being challenged by new modes of thought and expression, there arose the somewhat mystical artist Rafael Barradas (1890–1929). He spent many years in Europe, watching cubism, futurism, super-realism, and constructivism spring up; in France he absorbed post-impressionism. Reminiscences of Uruguay, too, are evident in some of his forceful pen and ink sketches, brilliant abstractions in oil, and charming port scenes, all of them vivid documents of the modern trend of art.

One of the most important artists of all Latin America is Pedro Figari (1861–1938), a native of Montevideo. His hundreds of remarkable paintings, done in the post-impressionist style of Bonnard and Vuillard, were constructed in color. His best pictures, perhaps more ably than Blanes' do, depict the life of the Rosas era and the picturesque Negro customs that are now gone from Montevideo society.

Another master of Uruguayan art today is Joaquín Torres-García (1874–1949). Although a native of Montevideo, he studied art in Barcelona and visited Europe and New York before returning to Uruguay in 1934. Every approach to modern painting is present in his numerous works; yet constructivism has been his main interest. His importance as a defender of this modern art innovation is as great as his fame as a first-rank painter in his own right. He has had considerable influence on local painters.

José Cúneo, a painter of weird

Scores of publications, from literary magazines to trade journals, reflect the diversity of Uruguayan life.

Department of State

World-famous artists perform before packed houses at the Teatro Solis, in Montevideo.

moons; Carmelo de Arzadum, who paints pale street scenes; Norberto Berdia, a muralist influenced by the Mexicans; and Ramón Pereyra, a Negro painter who follows Figari, are also representatives of contemporary Uruguayan art.. Outstanding engravers are Adolfo Pastor, Carlos González, Antonio Frasconi, and Guillermo Rodríguez.

Italians influenced early Uruguayan sculpture, just as they did painting. When this art came into its own at the end of the 19th century, the country's leading sculptors were Juan M. Ferrari and Juan Luis Blanes, who was also a painter. Sculpture acquired real importance as Uruguayans began to study in Europe and to return with new ideas. The names of José Luis Zorrilla de San Martín, son of the national poet of Uruguay, José Belloni, and Antonio Pena stand high on the long list of native sculptors. Contemporary artists, continually in search of autochthonous means of expression, include Edmundo Pratti, Germán Cabrera, Juan Martín, and Juan Moncalvi.

Music.—The folk and popular music of Uruguay, like that of most of the Río de la Plata region, developed not only in cities and towns but in the vast plains behind them. The *triste* and *vidala* are dreamy, often improvised love songs, in which Indian and European elements are blended. Minstrels among the gauchos, or cowboys of the pampas, sang these and what is perhaps the most typical of the songs of the plains—the melancholy *estilo*—

the words and music of which harmonize with the endless surrounding landscape. The *cielito, milonga,* and *pericón* also form a part of Uruguayan musical folklore. The *tango,* which made its sensational appearance towards the end of the 19th century, has long been sung and danced in Montevideo. One of the world-famous tangos, *La Cumparsita,* was written by an Uruguayan, G. H. Matos Rodríguez.

The fine art of music centers about private conservatories, where many many outstanding foreign musicians teach. The dean of present-day Uruguayan composers is Eduardo Fabini, whose ballet *Mburucuyá* (an Indian name for a native plant) and *Melga Sinfónica (melga* means tilled soil) try to capture the spirit of the country's folklore. His symphonic poem *Campo* is also well known. Several of Luis Cluzeau Mortet's compositions also show an influence of the airs and dances of the pampas. Vicente Ascone has written symphonic works well-known outside of his own country, as has the brilliant young composer and pianist Héctor Tosar. Ramón Rodríguez Socas has composed operas in the Italian tradition.

A symphonic center of first rank, Montevideo inaugurated its famous radio orchestra *Orquesta Sinfónica del Servicio Oficial de Difusión Radio Eléctrica* (OSSODRE, or SODRE) in 1931. Regular programs, including a number of first performances of works by Uruguayan composers, are presented by this national symphony, which was established and directed for many years by Lamberto Baldi. Present director

Department of State

Erosion has produced odd effects on the land near the historic Santa Teresa Fortress, in the Department of Rocha.

Museum of Modern Art

"Creole Dance," oil on cardboard, by Pedro Figari. Not only one of Uruguay's leading modern painters, Figari ranks with the best in Latin America.

is Juan José Castro. The record library of SODRE was organized by Francisco Curt Lange, a German-born citizen of Uruguay, whose promotion of what he calls "musical Americanism" has benefited not only the composers of Uruguay but of nearly every American republic.

A FEW REFERENCES FOR FURTHER READING

HANSON, SIMON G. *Utopia in Uruguay: Chapters in the Economic History of Uruguay.* New York: Oxford University Press. 1938. 262 p.

HUDSON, W. H. *The Purple Land: Being the Narrative of One Richard Lamb's Adventures in the Banda Oriental in South America, as Told by Himself.* New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. 1916. 355 p.

JOSEPHS, RAY. "Uruguay" (In his *Latin America, Continent in Crisis.* New York: Random House. 1948. p. 293–330).

MACDONALD, AUSTIN F. "Utopian Uruguay" (In his *Latin American Politics and Government.* New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company. 1949. p. 459–485).

MARDEN LUIS. "The Purple Land of Uruguay," *National Geographic Magazine.* Washington, D. C. November 1948. p. 623–654.

A reading list will be supplied on request to the Columbus Memorial Library, Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

ALBERTO LLERAS
Secretary General

WILLIAM MANGER
Assistant Secretary General

The Organization of American States is composed of 21 members: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In the words of the Charter of the Organization, the American republics developed their association "to achieve an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence."

Such have been the purposes to which the American republics have devoted their combined efforts since 1890, when the First International Conference of American States, in session at Washington, created on April 14 the central office that in time became known as the Pan American Union. April 14 is celebrated each year as Pan American Day.

The Union began by collecting and distributing commercial information about the member countries. Each successive Conference increased its duties, until the ways in which it now furthers cooperation among American nations and individuals are manifold.

Parallel with this expansion was the growth of the American system for preserving peace. Many boundary disputes inherited from colonial days were settled by arbitration, and treaties of increasing efficacy were made for the peaceful solution of inter-American controversies. The Rio de Janeiro treaty, which went into effect in 1948, provides for safeguarding peace by assuring joint action in case of aggression against an American republic from any source whatever. It was successfully invoked the same year, resulting in the peaceful settlement of a controversy between two neighboring countries.

The Ninth International Conference of American States, held at Bogotá in 1948, was called especially to reorganize, consolidate, and strengthen the inter-American system. In the Charter signed at Bogotá the American republics gave their association the new name of the Organization of American States. The Charter sets forth the principles and purposes that the experience of sixty years has taught them are good; and it defines the agencies by which these purposes are to be put into effect. Thus all activities of the Organization, political, economic, and cultural, are bound into a coordinated whole.

The Council of the Organization of American States meets in permanent session at Washington to forward the Organization's work between conferences. On this Council every republic is represented by one member, each with equal voice and vote. The Pan American Union is the central office, or secretariat, of the Organization.

Through persevering effort the American republics have succeeded, in spite of many setbacks, in gradually building an international system in which peace, justice, fair dealing, and cooperation are the guiding principles.

For more detailed information concerning the Organization of American States, address the Pan American Union, Washington 6, D. C.

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